

an edge barrier that inhibits the formation of adhesions with sensitive tissue and organs, the edge barrier being adapted to isolate at least a portion of the edge of the mesh fabric from adjacent sensitive tissue and organs.

47. The prosthetic repair fabric according to claim 46, wherein the layer of mesh fabric and the barrier layer are connected by a series of stitches.

48. The prosthetic repair fabric according to claim 47, wherein the series of stitches includes at least one series of continuous stitches having a stitch pattern, at least a portion of the stitch pattern approximating the shape of an outer peripheral edge of the layer of mesh fabric.

49. The prosthetic repair fabric according to claim 48, wherein the at least one series of continuous stitches includes a pair of continuous stitches, the stitch pattern for each of the pair of continuous stitches approximating the shape of the outer peripheral edge.

50. The prosthetic repair fabric according to claim 46, wherein the layer of mesh fabric is formed from polypropylene.

51. The prosthetic repair fabric according to claim 46, wherein the barrier layer is formed from ePTFE.

52. The prosthetic repair fabric according to claim 46, wherein the edge barrier is formed from ePTFE.

53. An implantable prosthesis for repairing a tissue or muscle wall defect, the implantable prosthesis comprising:

a layer of repair fabric that is susceptible to the formation of adhesions with tissue and organs, the layer of repair fabric including first and second sides and an edge extending between the first and second sides;

a barrier layer that inhibits the formation of adhesions with tissue and organs, the barrier layer being configured to inhibit the formation of adhesions between at least a portion of one of the first and second sides and adjacent tissue and organs; and

an edge barrier that inhibits the formation of adhesions with tissue and organs, the edge barrier being adapted to cover at least a portion of the edge of the layer of repair fabric to inhibit the formation of adhesions between the portion of the edge of the layer of repair fabric and adjacent tissue and organs.

54. The implantable prosthesis according to claim 53, wherein the layer of repair fabric includes a plurality of interstices that are constructed and arranged to allow tissue ingrowth thereto.

55. The implantable prosthesis according to claim 53, wherein the layer of repair fabric and the barrier layer are connected by at least one series of stitches.

56. The implantable prosthesis according to claim 53, wherein the layer of repair fabric includes a polypropylene mesh.

57. The implantable prosthesis according to claim 56, wherein the barrier layer includes ePTFE.

58. The implantable prosthesis according to claim 56, wherein the edge barrier includes ePTFE.

59. A method of repairing a tissue or muscle wall defect, the method comprising steps of:

(a) providing an implantable prosthesis including a layer of repair fabric that is susceptible to the formation of adhesions with tissue and organs, the layer of repair fabric including first and second sides and an edge extending between the first and second sides, the prosthesis also including a barrier layer that inhibits the formation of adhesions with tissue and organs, the barrier layer being configured to inhibit the formation of adhesions between at least a

portion of the first side and adjacent tissue and organs, the implantable prosthesis further including an edge barrier that inhibits the formation of adhesions with tissue and organs, the edge barrier covering at least a portion of the edge of the layer of repair fabric to inhibit the formation of adhesions between the portion of the edge of the layer of repair fabric and adjacent tissue and organs; and

(b) implanting the implantable prosthesis with the barrier layer and the edge barrier being positioned between the layer of repair fabric and a region of potential adhesions with tissue and organs.

60. The method according to claim 59, wherein the layer of repair fabric includes a plurality of interstices that are constructed and arranged to allow tissue ingrowth thereto.

61. The method according to claim 59, wherein the layer of repair fabric and the barrier layer are connected by at least one series of stitches.

62. The method according to claim 59, wherein the layer of repair fabric includes a polypropylene mesh.

63. The method according to claim 62, wherein the barrier layer includes ePTFE.

64. The method according to claim 63, wherein the edge barrier includes ePTFE.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 46-64 have been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 46-64 are pending.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825